



Minarets High School
Student Course Outline and Expectations
Introduction to Agriculture Mechanics



Instructor Contact Information:

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I. Course Description

Agricultural Mechanics is a program of courses created to develop in students understandings, appreciations, abilities, and skills which will prepare them for entrance into the labor market or into advanced education. Throughout the course of the year all students will be involved in hands-on activities that will allow them to increase their knowledge and skill in a variety of areas. The main goal of any mechanics course is to train students to work with and among others, around machinery, and with hand tools in safe and efficient manner. All students will partake in constructing a variety of projects, but those projects may be altered to fit the individuals interests, needs, or confidence/skill level.

II. Goals and Objectives

1. Develop good habits, attitudes, judgments, cooperation and the ability to get along with others in a work environment.
2. Create a desire for good workmanship, attention to detail, and job completion.
3. By good example, stimulate the student to keep an orderly shop.
4. Give students confidence in their abilities and skills in working with different tools.
5. Create a desire in students to seek additional skills and knowledge in a given area of interest.

III. Grading Scale

The following scale is used in this class:

A= 90% and above
B= 80% - 89%
C= 70% - 79%
D= 60% - 69%
F= 59% and below

Grades are **NOT** on a weighted point scale. All grades are determined on the basis of total points earned for the grading period.

IV. Cheating

Any student(s) caught cheating on a test or quiz, or copying any portions of assignments, or allowing other students to perform work for them, will receive a **ZERO** for that activity. They will **NOT** be able to make it up for partial credit nor will they be allowed to enter that project in the fair.

V. Make-Up Work

It is the **student's responsibility** to ask for any work or assignment that was missed. Some projects may be taken home to work on or students can work out a schedule with the teacher to

make up projects after school. A reasonable time period will be permitted for make-up work for the following reasons when varyfied within one day of the student's return:

<i>Illness</i>	<i>Medical/Dental Appointment (name of doctor/clinic)</i>
<i>Quarantine</i>	<i>Funeral for family or friends</i>
<i>Athletic activities</i>	<i>School functions/field trips (if eligible to participate)</i>

******Of course situations arise - just make sure to check in with the teacher to make sure that everyone is on the same page.

VI. Leadership Opportunities

At Minarets it is our goal to assist students of all ages in developing their qualities as a leader. At Minarets students have the opportunity to become a member of the National FFA Organization, which is the largest youth leadership organization in the country, simply by being enrolled in a Science or Mechanics course. In order to assist the students in developing there leadership qualities we are giving them the opportunity to earn credit in their Science or Mechanics course simply by attending two (2) leadership activities through the FFA each semester. Options for activities can include monthly FFA meetings, community service, leadership conferences, public speaking events, fundraisers, judging contests and many more! We, as a department staff, uphold the same participation policy and encourage all students to get involved in the leadership opportunities FFA presents them.

VII. SAE Projects and Record Books

By the end of the year every student will have a SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) project. This is a student created project tailored around individual interests, needs, and wants. It serves as another learning opportunity by increasing a student's level of responsibility, record keeping skills, while increasing his/her knowledge and skill in a chosen area. Students will have until January to design a SAE and are expected to have it up and running for most of the second semester. They will also keep accurate records of their activities in the FFA Record Book throughout the year. Parents, this can also be a great opportunity for your student to make some money while increasing their knowledge and skills. If students cannot come up with a project they can participate in the tree mitigation plan on campus. They will need to spend at least FIVE hours outside of class time to complete the project.

VIII. Community Service

Minarets places a high value and appreciation on giving back to the community and this is simply one item that sets us apart from other schools. In order to promote citizenship and leadership development as well as earning credit in their Science or Mechanics course we ask that students give a little back to the community by completing one (1) community service project per semester. This activity is **NOT** limited to only activities through the FFA; students may perform community service with their church, youth groups, or organizations of his/her choice or anywhere else approved by an instructor. However, by taking part in a FFA sponsored community service activity the student will be allowed to count it twice; once as a community service project and also as a leadership development activity. Regardless, there will be plenty of opportunities presented to students during the 2012- 2013 school year. We encourage every student to take part in as many community service projects as possible. In addition, by completing this activity they will be assisting the Minarets Agriculture Department with their goal

of winning the “Million Hour Challenge”, a contest put on by the National FFA Organization to ensure that all students understand the meaning of giving back to their communities. It is our goal that all students will be able to experience the pleasure and appreciation that comes with giving back to their community, doing so will not only to provide help for those in need in the short term, but it will allow growth as individuals in the long term.

IX. Calendar

The following is a calendar of basic FFA activities and functions that your child can attend. Keep in mind should they choose to get more involved we can add many more activities to this list.

August 29th	FFA Meeting (6pm in Multipurpose room) Slip-n-Slide Volleyball
August 29th	Slip-n-Slide Volleyball Match
September 19th	Sectional Activity Night (Blackbeard's in Fresno)
September 26th	FFA Meeting (6 pm in Multipurpose room) The Amazing Race
Sept 26th- Oct 15th	Sell Chicken Dinner Tickets
October 7th	Bass Lake Clean-up (Community Service Opportunity)
October 17th	Work the Chicken Dinner Fundraiser (see your Ag teacher)
October 31st	FFA Meeting (6pm in Multipurpose room) Trick-or-Can
October 14th	Opening and Closing Speaking Contest
November 28th	FFA Fall Banquet
December 12th	FFA Meeting (6pm in Multipurpose room) Winter Olympics
December 15th	Community Love Day (Community Service Activity)
December 20-21	School Farm Clean up and Building Garden Boxes (Community Service Activity)
January 23rd	FFA Meeting (6pm in Multipurpose room) FFA Dance
February 7th	Sectional Speaking Contest (See Ag teacher ASAP if interested)
February 2nd	FFA Invitational Volunteer
February 8/9	MFE/ ALA Conference in Visalia
February 14th	Tulare Farm Show Trip
February 20th	Sectional Activity Night (Johns Incredible Pizza in Fresno)
February 27th	FFA Meeting (6pm Location TBA) Blackout Dodgeball
February 27th	Play in Dodgeball Tournament
March 27th	FFA Meeting (6pm Multipurpose Room) March Madness
March 27th	Play in March Madness Tournament
April 30th	FFA Meeting (6pm Multipurpose Room) Capture the Torch
April 30th	Class Representative in Capture the Torch
May 28th	FFA End of the Year Banquet (6pm in Minarets Gym) RSVP IS REQUIRED!

****The Ag teachers as well as the FFA officer team reserve the right to change the meeting dates and times at any point in the school year. Notice will be given in class and it is the students responsibility to make adjustments if they are necessary****

***** If you choose to join a judging team there will be additional dates added to this list. Also if you succeed at a speaking contest there will also be additional dates added to this list.**

X. Pro Points

Much like a license, pro points are a privilege and not a right. Throughout the course of the year students will have opportunities to obtain points to aide their final grades for the course. This should not be looked at as a band-aid or used as a crutch. Negotiation will not be apart of pro points. They will be given to students who are going above and beyond the ‘A’ requirement, or given to those who turn in projects early.

XI. Points

Points are earned on the basis of assessments (quizzes/tests), projects (graded on workmanship and completion), presentations (both the visual and oral components will be scored), FFA activity, SAE, community service, classroom/shop participation, behavior and attitude. **ALL** assignments will be submitted, however the highest score possible for **LATE WORK** will be **70%** of the originally assigned total.

Breakdown:

35%--Projects and assignments

30%--Participation and Citizenship (must work to get paid)

20%--Tests and quizzes

5%--FFA Activity

5%--SAE Project / Record Book

5%--Community Service

XII. Course Outline

Here are the topics that will be covered throughout the course of the year:

1. Safety (shop, tool, and fire)
2. Measuring
3. Project Layout
4. Project Billing
5. Graphic communication / 3-D Modeling
6. Wood Construction
7. Irrigation
8. Tool ID
9. Concrete
10. Cold Metal
11. Torch Operation
12. Rope Work

XII. Being Prepared for Class

Students must come to class ready to work and willing to learn. Active participation is a vital part of being successful in this class as in life. Students must also bring with them a sharpened pencil and a fine point, felt-tipped black pen to every class period. Fine point Sharpie pens are acceptable. All other tools and materials will be provided by the instructor.

INTRODUCTION TO AG MECHANICS

Course Syllabus Contract:

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. PLEASE GET FORM SIGNED AND RETURN IT TO CLASS.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Student!

Date